VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The Title has been amended as follows:

--A METHOD FOR SYNTHESIS, SEPARATION AND SCREENING OF A PLURALITY OF COMPOUNDS IN THE SAME BULK OF A STATIONARY PHASE--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3 and 31 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preparing and screening [one or more compound(s)] a plurality of compounds, said compounds being handled in a bulk of a stationary phase, the method comprises the sequential steps of (a) [synthesis of] synthesizing the [compound(s)] compounds by a chemical reaction performed in the bulk of a stationary phase, said chemical reaction involving a reaction mixture including chemical reagents, (b) separating the [compound(s)] compounds by biological or biochemical method in the same bulk of a stationary phase and (c) screening of the separated [compound(s)] compounds in or on the bulk of stationary phase.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising additional analysis of the separated [compound(s)] compounds in the bulk of the stationary phase or an isolated sample of the [compound(s)] compounds.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein introduction of chemical reagents [onto] into the bulk of the stationary phase provides the reaction mixture which gives rise to the compounds.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein the compounds are synthesised in the bulk of the stationary phase by introducing chemical reagents involved in the chemical reaction [onto] into the bulk of the stationary phase thereby generating a reaction mixture.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein each of the chemical reagents is individually introduced into the bulk of the stationary phase.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein each of the chemical reagents is introduced [onto] into the bulk of the stationary phase in a solution.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein the reaction mixture is localised [into] in a well-defined area in the bulk of the stationary phase.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 1, wherein chemical reagents involved in a specific synthesis of [one or more] the compounds are introduced to a well-defined area on the bulk of the stationary phase.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein various syntheses [of one or more compounds] are performed in parallel on separate and well-defined areas of the same bulk of stationary phase.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein synthesis of [more] the plurality of compounds on the same bulk of a stationary phase provides a library of different compounds.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the layer thickness of the bulk of the stationary phase when dispersed onto or between the inert backing(s) is 10 µm to 5 mm [preferably 10 µm to 2 mm. more preferably 100 µm to 250 µm].

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the combined bulk of stationary phase and inert backing is a silica gel thin-layer chromatography plate with [an plastics] a plastic backing.

32. (Amended) A method according to claim [31] 1, wherein the biological[, chemical] and biochemical methods are selected from bioautographic techniques, overlay techniques, immunostaining, autoradiographic techniques, enzymatic analysis, derivatisation, receptor-binding assays, reporter gene assays, cell proliferation assays, physiologic assays, transient transfection or melanophor pigment-translocation.

Claims 37-39 have been added.